

opening a Consulate in Shanghai before the end of the year. We also have started work on a score of special projects throughout the Asia-Pacific area and we're considering the merits of several more, including some in Korea.

I don't have to tell you that, within the Pacific Rim, Korea plays a central role in our export development strategy.

Our trade figures reflect the importance we attach to Korea. Our two-way trade so far this year is running 23 percent ahead of last year. That is considerably better than the performance of either of our countries with the rest of the world. Indeed, if the recent pattern of growth continues, Canada and Korea could become each other's fourth largest trading partner by 1990.

If we focus on Korean exports, the record becomes even more remarkable. Korea's global sales declined four percent during the first half of the year. At the same time, her exports to Canada jumped 30 percent -- stimulated, no doubt, by a stampede of Canadian car buyers to the Pony. In fact, so far this year, two-thirds of Korea's passenger car exports have been to Canada. This is an impressive performance in our market, and we congratulate you.

I cannot pretend to be terribly surprised, however. I think you're aware that Korea was the first stop on my first trip to Asia as Minister for

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International Trade. That was back in February, but my impressions are still very clear. Let me share some of them with you.

Before I left, I had been told that Korea had a young and dynamic economy. Even so, I was surprised by the sense of force and direction of the business community. I was impressed by the level of commitment of the Korean people, by the quality and diversity of Korean industrial output, and certainly by the high degree of productivity and automation that Koreans have achieved.

And, despite the visible signs that South Korea still faces a threat from the north, what struck me most was the sense of aliveness and resilience and determination that I found in the land.

I'm told that, for some of you, this is the fourth consecutive meeting of the Council. You're aware of how far we've come since the first one, and I must give full credit to the chairmen and members of the Council. Without your remarkable dedication and energy, we would not have made it nearly so far. This year's agenda is the broadest we've ever had, and that reflects the linkages that have developed between our two countries, linkages that go beyond the traditional pattern of sales. The recent announcement by Hyundai Motors to build an assembly plant in Canada is the most obvious example, but other building blocks are being assembled as well.